

density, other trees distributed by wind or bird may not then become naturally planted.

In the course of three summers on the island only three ferns have been found, and as might be expected, these are species independent of tree shade. The species are; the lady fern, the hay scented fern, and the marsh fern. There is a possibility that some of the thickets and boggy places may harbor some of the low growing forms like *Ophioglossom* or the smaller forms of *Botrychium*, but so far these have not been seen.

BROOKLYN BOTANIC GARDEN.

#### GOLDIE'S FERN (*Dryopteris Goldieana*)

As the Torrey Botanical Club contemplates taking the Decoration Day Field Trip this year to Branchville, New Jersey, it may be of interest to note that there is an excellent station in that region for the rather scarce but beautiful fern, *Dryopteris Goldieana*.

Although this fern has rather a wide distribution, it is apparently never plentiful anywhere, and in Britton's Catalogue of Plants of New Jersey, only three stations are recorded for the state. None of these are in Sussex County.

Scarcely more than a hundred yards from the hotel, known as "The Pines," near Branchville, there is a limestone rock or boulder, probably ten feet across, covered with Goldie's fern. Around the edge of this rock and near it, are also growing many fine plants of this species.

This station for Goldie's fern may be familiar to others but I did not know of it until I came across the plants last August.

OLIVER P. MEDSGER,  
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#### BOOK REVIEWS

##### MACBRIDE'S NORTH AMERICAN SLIME-MOULDS\*

Both student and nature lover will welcome the appearance of Professor Macbride's long-looked-for revision of the North American Slime-Moulds, for in spite of its obscurity, this group

\*Macbride, T. H. North American Slime-Mou'lds, pp. I-XVII, 1-299. The Macmillan Co., New York, 1922.

of organisms is of like interest to the professional botanist and the amateur. Standing as they do on the border line between animals and plants or as suggested by the author of the book, perhaps outside the pale of either, they furnish a most fertile field for the speculation of the student. Consisting, as they do in their vegetative stage, of a naked mass of liquid protoplasm which, unlike all other liquids, defies the laws of gravity and persistently flows up hill instead of down, these organisms never cease to arouse the interest of the nature student, provided their eyes have been keen enough to detect them at all or someone has directed their attention to them.

Add to this the varied and fantastic shapes which are assumed by the fruiting stage of the slime-moulds and which adorn the ugly surface of rotting logs with minute feathers and cushions of the most delicate structures and beautiful colors and it is difficult to select any group of either animals or plants which can furnish a more fascinating subject for observation and study. Only one other thing is necessary to make this work a great success and that is the personality of the man behind the book which while it may shine out through the printed page can never be fully appreciated unless one, like the writer, has come into personal contact with its author in the class room.

In matters of nomenclature the author has not followed hard and fast rules but has apparently attempted to use the oldest recognizable specific names without regard to rule or date. As to genera he has again followed usage rather than rule. He has attempted to correlate the work of America and Europe so that the species common to the two continents will appear under the same names in the standard American and European works, where the identity can be agreed upon. One other very commendable feature of the book is the extensive notes and observations which supplement the technical descriptions.

The illustrations consist of twenty-three plates as compared with eighteen in the old edition. The plates are made in half tone from photographs and drawings showing habitat sketches and microscopic details. The drawings are very well done, the sculpturing of the spores and capillitium being so well shown that they cannot fail to arouse in the reader a desire to actually see and know more of these wonderful organisms. No colored illustrations are used. A copy of this book should be in the hands not only of every botanist but also of every nature stu-

dent who loves to ramble through the woods and fields in search of natural objects of interest.

F. J. SEAVER

## PROCEEDINGS OF THE CLUB.

### MEETING OF MARCH 14, 1922.

The meeting was held at the American Museum of Natural History.

The following were elected to membership: Mrs. Ellis Parker Butler, Flushing, New York, Mr. Edgar Nelson, Flushing, New York Dr. Eda M. Rounds, Providence, R. I., Dr. Charles Vetter, New York City.

The resignation of Mr. N. A. Lawrence was accepted.

It was voted to endorse a project to establish a Northeastern Forest Experiment Station and the Secretary was instructed to write letters to Congressmen in support of a bill recently introduced to accomplish this end (S. 783 and H. R. 9689).

The scientific program consisted of an illustrated talk on "Botanizing in British Guiana" by Dr. H. A. Gleason. Dr. Gleason left New York June 2, 1921, spent ten weeks in collecting, and returned to New York, September 6. Field work was considerably hampered by the almost incessant rains of the season, but almost a thousand numbers and some four thousand specimens were obtained. Most of these were collected in the dense tropical rain forest along the Essequibo and Potaro rivers, from 75 to 175 miles back from Georgetown, but an interesting series was also secured from the open forest on the white sands lying between the Essequibo and Demerara rivers. The most noteworthy families represented are the Rubiaceae, Melastomataceae, and Leguminosae in the old sense. A few new species have already been found in the collections, and one represents an apparently new genus of the Rapateaceae.

After discussion, adjournment followed.

MARSHALL A. HOWE  
Secretary.

### MEETING OF MARCH 29, 1922

This meeting was held in the botanical lecture-room of Schermerhorn Hall, Columbia University.

Mr. Bayard Long was elected the Club's delegate to the twenty sixth annual meeting of the American Academy of